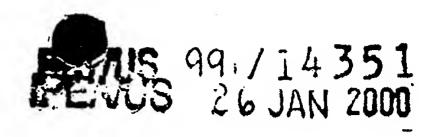
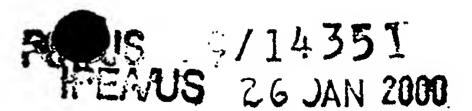
## Exhibit A

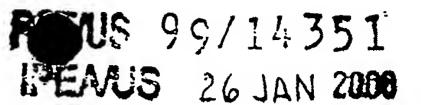


## What is claimed is:

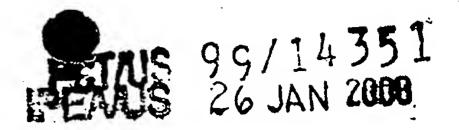
- 1. A composition suitable for administering a therapeutic dose of a corticosteroid to the respiratory tract, consisting essentially of:
  - (a) from 5  $\mu$ g/ml to about 5 mg/ml of a corticosteroid in dissolved form;
- (b) from about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight of a pharmaceutically acceptable, high-HLB surfactant component, wherein the HLB of the surfactants present in the high-HLB surfactant component is greater than about 10, and wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50% by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E; and
  - (c) at least about 70 weight percent aqueous phase.
  - 2. Cancel.
  - 3. Cancel.
  - 4. Cancel.
- 5. The composition of claim 1 wherein the corticosteroid comprises beclomethasone dipropionate.
  - 6. The composition of claim 1 wherein the corticosteroid comprises budesonide.
- 7. The composition of claim 1 wherein the corticosteroid comprises triamcinolone acetonide.



- 8. The composition of claim 1 wherein the corticosteroid comprises fluticasone propionate.
  - 9. The composition of claim 1 wherein the corticosteroid comprises flunisolide.
- 10. The composition of claim 1 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.
  - 11. Cancel.
- 12. A composition suitable for administering a therapeutic dose of a corticosteroid to the respiratory tract, comprising:
  - (a) from 5  $\mu$ g/ml to about 5 mg/ml of a corticosteroid in dissolved form;
  - (b) from about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight of a high-HLB surfactant component wherein the HLB of the surfactants present in the high-HLB surfactant component is greater than about 10, and wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50 percent by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E; and
    - (c) at least about 70 weight percent aqueous phase.
- 13. The composition of claim 12 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 75 percent by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E.
- 14. The composition of claim 12 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 90 percent by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E.

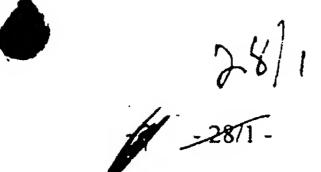


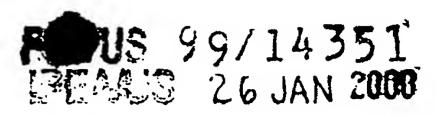
- 15. The composition of claim 12 further comprising from about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight of a pharmaceutically acceptable cosolvent comprising propylene glycol, polyethylene glycol having a molecular weight between about 200 and 4000, glycerol, ethoxydiglycol, glycofurol, and ethanol, or a combination thereof.
- 16. The composition of claim 12 further comprising from about 0.1 to about 3 percent by weight of a low HLB surfactant having an HLB below about 8.
- 17. The composition of claim 12 further comprising from about 0.1 to about 3 percent by weight of an oil.
- 18. A method for administering a therapeutic dosage of a corticosteroid to the respiratory tract, comprising:
  - (a) providing a corticosteroid composition comprising:
    - (1) from 5  $\mu$ g/ml to about 5 mg/ml of a corticosteroid in dissolved form;
- (2) from about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight of a high-HLB surfactant component wherein the HLB of the surfactants present in the high-HLB surfactant component is greater than about 10, and wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50 percent by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E; and
  - (3) at least about 70 weight percent aqueous phase;
  - (b) aerosolizing the corticosteroid composition; and
  - (c) administering a therapeutic effective dosage of the aerosol of the corticosteroid composition by inhalation.
- 19. The method of claim 18 wherein the corticosteroid composition consists essentially of said corticosteroid, said aqueous phase, and said high-HLB surfactant.



- 20. A method for administering a therapeutic dosage of a corticosteroid to the nasal passage, comprising:
  - (a) providing a corticosteroid composition comprising:
  - (1) from about 50  $\mu$ g/ml to about 10 mg/ml of a corticosteroid in dissolved form;
- (2) from about 0.1 to about 20 percent by weight of a high-HLB surfactant component wherein the HLB of the surfactants present in the high-HLB surfactant component is greater than about 10, and wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50 percent by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E; and
  - (3) at least about 70 weight percent aqueous phase;
  - (b) administering a therapeutic effective dosage of the corticosteroid composition by nasal inhalation.
- 21. A method of preparing a diluted corticosteroid composition containing the corticosteroid in a dissolved form, comprising:
- (a) dissolving a corticosteroid compound into a molten pharmaceutically acceptable high-HLB surfactant component, wherein the HLB of the surfactants present in the high-HLB surfactant component is greater than about 10, and wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 50 percent by weight of an ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E;
- (b) subsequently blending the molten high-HLB surfactant component containing the dissolved corticosteroid with an aqueous phase,

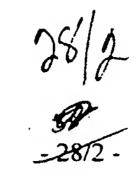
wherein the aqueous phase is present in an amount of at least about 70 weight percent, and the high-HLB surfactant component is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 20 weight percent of the diluted corticosteroid composition.

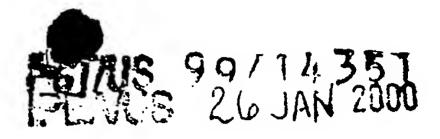






- 22. The composition of claim 1 wherein the ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E comprises at least 75% by weight of the high-HLB surfactant component.
- 23. The composition of claim 1 wherein the ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E comprises at least 90% by weight of the high-HLB surfactant component.
- 24. The composition of claim 1 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 75% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.
- 25. The composition of claim 1 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 90% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.
- 26. The composition of claim 12 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 75% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.
- 27. The composition of claim 12 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 90% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.
- 28. The method of claim 18 wherein the ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E comprises at least 75% by weight of the high-HLB surfactant component.
- 29. The method of claim 18 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 75% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.
- 30. The method of claim 20 wherein the ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E comprises at least 75% by weight of the high-HLB surfactant component.
- 31. The method of claim 20 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 75% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.





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- 32. The method of claim 21 wherein the ethoxylated derivative of vitamin E comprises at least 75% by weight of the high-HLB surfactant component.
- 33. The method of claim 21 wherein the high-HLB surfactant component comprises at least 75% by weight tocopheryl polyethylene glycol 1000 succinate.